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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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Subramanya Shashti at Siddalingapura

Temple wears deserted look

Mysuru, Dec. 20 (MTY&BCT)- Today is Subramanya Shashti and the famed Sri Subramanyeshwara Swamy Temple at Siddalingapura on Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway that usually buzzes with activity wore a deserted look as the District Administration had banned the entry of devotees due to COVID-19 epidemic. Subramanya Shashti is a big festival in the Margashira Maasa dedicated to Lord Subramanya. Priests call it Skanda Shashti.

Instead of devotees, a large number of Policemen were present in and around the Temple to prevent the entry of devotees from early in the morning. Usually, devotees throng the temple before the day breaks on this festival day. But this morning, they stayed away from the Temple and instead offered their prayers from the other side of the Highway.

Usually, hundreds of stalls selling puja items, sweets, snacks, puffed rice, toys and household articles are put up on both sides of the Highway and unable to manage the crowd on this day, the Police usually divert the traffic for the whole day. But this morning there was no such scene. Police guarded the Temple and not a single devotee was allowed inside. But rituals inside the Temple were carried out in a traditional manner. The Shashti rituals began as early as 4 am, with a team of priests led by the Temple Chief Priest M.V. Subramanya performing Panchamrutha Abhisheka, Rudrabhisheka, Sahasranamarchane and Ashtavadhana Seve.

(See SHASHTI on page 10)

Zip to Bengaluru in just 90 minutes

- 45 percent of Mysuru-Bengaluru 10-lane Economic Corridor works done; to be fully completed by September 2022
- Highway to have Food Parks on both sides, says Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari

Bengaluru, Dec. 20 (KMS&BCT)- Over 45 percent of the project to upgrade the existing Mysuru-Bengaluru National Highway 275 to a 10-lane Economic Corridor has been completed and the road will be dedicated to the nation in September 2022. An estimated 38,000 vehicles ply between the two cities every day and traffic density has increased the duration of travel, necessitating the upgradation. Once the project is completed, it will take just 90 minutes to traverse between the two cities as against the present 3-hour journey.

While laying the foundation for 33 National Highway projects in Karnataka, including 1,197-km long roads worth Rs. 10,904 crore, via video conferencing yesterday, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that the project, taken up under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I, would meet its deadline to realise the aspirations of people living in the region.

(See BENGALURU on page 5)

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Sunday 20th December 2020

SWR invites applications to fill up 1,004 posts

Bengaluru, Dec. 20- South Western Railway (SWR) has invited applications from candidates to apply for Apprentice posts. Eligible candidates can apply online through the official site of RRC Hubli on *rrchubli.in.* The last date to apply for the post is Jan. 9, 2021. This recruitment drive will fill up 1,004 posts in the organisation.

Candidates, who have registered with local employment exchange falling in Karnataka and adjoining districts of States, served by SWR, that is, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Goa will be given preference. Last date for submitting filled-in applications will be Jan. 9, 2021.

Candidates should have passed 10th class examination or its equivalent (under 10+2 examination system) with minimum 50% marks in aggregate, from recognised Board and also have ITI — National Trade Certificate in the notified trade issued by the NCVT/SCVT. Age limit of a candidate should be between 15 and 24 years of age.

The selection of candidates will be on the basis of a merit list. The merit list will be prepared for the purpose on the basis of the percentage of marks in matriculation with a minimum of 50 percent plus ITI marks in the trade in which Apprenticeship is to be done.

Candidates who want to apply for the post will have to pay Rs. 100 as application fees. Payment will have to be done through online mode.

For more related details, candidates can visit the official site of SWR. Out of the total 1,004 posts, 177 are in Mysuru, 43 in Mysuru Workshop, 280 in Bengaluru, 287 in Hubballi and 217 in Hubballi Workshop.

The selected candidates would get monthly stipend of Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 16,000. Applications have been invited for following trades: mechanist, plumber, painter and cooper.

Link to submit application online: ***https://jobs.rrchubli.in/ActApprentice2020-21*** or Website: ***www.rrchubli.in***

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Politics isn't a career choice in itself, as far as parliament's website is concerned. But MPs do have the freedom to list multiple professions. Did you know L.K. Advani is a journalist, diplomat and trade unionist? That's more versatility than even Ronald Reagan could boast — radio broadcaster, lifeguard and actor. Narendra Modi and Sonia Gandhi make simpler claims. He says he is a social worker. So does she. Actually, sit back and relax because the 16th Lok Sabha boasts as many as 119 social workers.

Agriculturists do better at 153 but businesspersons are worse off at 82, comforting those who worry that our polity has been captured by industrywallas. Some professions are really at the fringes. The Lok Sabha has one sportsperson, one scientist. Also, there's only one strategy consultant — Rahul Gandhi. Guess it did need really niche skills to take the country's most venerable party to its lowest ever tally. Like the US, we have plenty of advocates. This should mean we are very competitive at arguing, haggling. It would be nice to be like China too though. Lots of their political elite — including president Xi Jinping — are engineers. That speaks to development and infrastructure being priorities.

Along with scientists and engineers, artists are also in short supply in Lok Sabha. One person it may be missing these days is Mamata Banerjee. She is quite the Renaissance woman in terms of the versatility of her artistic talent — ranging from paintings, poetry, designing saris and coming up with logos for her programmes. The only art she's not known to take a shine to is the lowly, even dastardly one of drawing humorous cartoons. If in Bengal one shouldn't touch this profession with a barge pole — she can go to the extent of imprisoning its practitioners. *—In The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

'World's ugliest orchid' among new species-2020

London: Orchids are not often called ugly, but that is how the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London, described a new species of the normally vibrant and delicate flower discovered in the forests of Madagascar. Gastrodia agnicellus, one of 156 plants and fungal species named by Kew scientists and their partners around the world in 2020, has been crowned "the ugliest orchid in the world".

"The 11 mm flowers of this orchid are small, brown and rather ugly," Kew said in its list of the top 10 discoveries of the year. The orchid depends on fungi for nutrition and has no leaves or any other photosynthetic tissue. Although assessed as a threatened species, the plants have some protection because they are located in a national park.

Doctor battles to keep pet cemetery open

Yangon: In a shady corner of a cemetery in Myanmar's commercial capital of Yangon, pastel-colored headstones mark the final resting places of dozens of beloved pets. Local doctor Tin Htun Naing said he created the burial ground, the country's largest and best known, in 2015 when his dog, Little Daughter, died after 15 years of loyal companionship and he couldn't find a place to inter her.

Now, some 300 pets are buried there, mostly dogs — including a celebrity police sniffer dog named Sergeant Michael — but some cats and one rabbit. Each burial, handled by a local family who takes care of the graveyard, costs about $70.

Tin Htun Naing says Yangon residents could soon have to find an alternative as Municipal authorities have ordered burials to stop after complaints about the interment of animals close to human graves.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Aerobic exercise revs up blood flow to the skin, delivering oxygen and nutrients that improve skin health and even help wounds heal faster. That is why when people have injuries, they should get moving as quickly as possible, not only to avoid muscle atrophy, but to make sure there's good blood flow to the skin,"

By Aruna Selvi - Department of Physiotherapy

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mysuru

Figures as per Government Media Bulletin released last evening

Positive cases yesterday	:	66
Total positive cases	:	51,732
Discharges yesterday	:	16
Total discharges	:	50,341
Deaths yesterday	:	0
Total deaths	:	1,006
Total active cases	:	385

Mandya

Positive cases yesterday	:	30
Total positive cases	:	19,201
Total discharges	:	18,845
Total deaths	:	147
Total active cases	:	209

Chamarajanagar

Positive cases yesterday	:	19
Total positive cases	:	6,639
Total discharges	:	6,409
Total deaths	:	117
Total active cases	:	102

Kodagu

Positive cases yesterday	:	17
Total positive cases	:	5,601
Total discharges	:	5,386
Total deaths	:	70
Total active cases	:	145

Hassan

Positive cases yesterday	:	18
Total positive cases	:	27,707
Total discharges	:	27,043
Total deaths	:	389
Total active cases	:	275

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Two girls were sitting at a club. One was ugly and the other one was beautiful. Pappu came and walked straight to the ugly girl.
Pappu: *Hi;* ***Ugly girl:*** *Hi*
Pappu: *Wanna dance?*
Ugly girl (excited): *Yes, why not!*
Pappu: *Ok, go and dance, give me your seat let me talk to your friend."*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.61
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 99.54
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.04
1 Euro	= Rs. 90.22

VOICE OF THE READER

Irregular garbage collection at Srirampura 2nd Stage

Sir,

I am a resident of 9th Cross Srirampura 2nd Stage, Mysuru. Earlier, the garbage was being collected daily. Since about the last one month, the garbage collection from our street has become very irregular.

At times, the Pourakarmika has not picked up the garbage for 3 days at a time. Everyday the residents end up keeping the garbage out in the morning and taking it back in the afternoon.

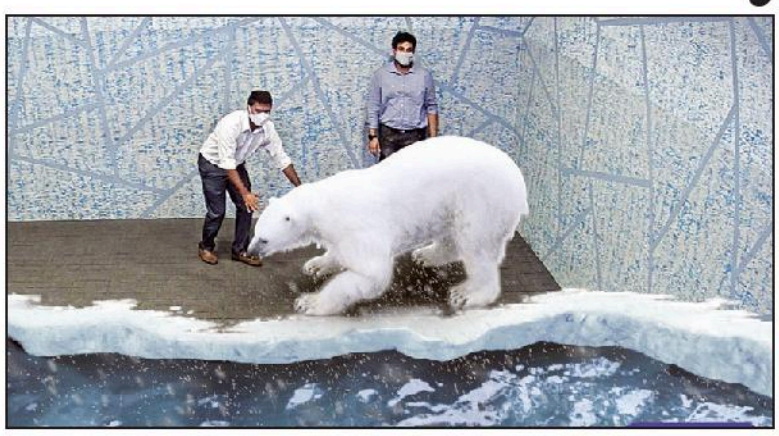
Also, even though the residents are diligently separating the wet and dry garbage, the Pourakarmikas are dumping both together in the truck.

I request the Health and Corporation authorities concerned to look into the matter and resolve this issue at the earliest.

—Col. N.G. Krishna Prasad (Retd.)

Mysuru
10.12.2020

Safe Entertainment at GRS Fantasy Park



Mysuru, Dec. 20- After nine months of long wait, GRS Fantasy Park has opened its gates to the customers with online booking facility. The Park had stopped operations one week before the Government Order keeping in mind the safety of customers in March 2020. With the decreasing number of COVID-19 cases, the Governments at the Centre and State have permitted Water Parks to open by providing necessary safety measures. Accordingly, GRS Fantasy Park has opened for customers by taking utmost safety measures.

Spread over a large 40 acres area, the Park has sprawling open spaces interspersed with family-friendly rides. The customers can enjoy thrilling rides like Aqua Racer, Aqua Tornado, Pendulum Slide & Crazy Cruise.

The family members can enjoy swing char, dashing car, red Indian Falls, aqua dance floor and Hawaiian paradise. For children, there are special rides such as kids pool, aqua slide, baby train and kid's play area.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Ashwin Dange, Business Head, GRS Fantasy Park and Chairman, Southern Region - Indian Amusement Association, said: "The safety of our customers and our people is of paramount importance to us. We are in the business of giving happiness to our customers. Hence, we have researched and implemented the best procedures for water attractions. World over water parks have been proven safe and have reopened."

"All attractions are constantly sanitised using appropriate disinfectants. We have a water testing lab inside GRS where water is tested every two hours for the right parameters. We have also ensured sanitisation of customer touchpoints," he said.

Temperature monitoring is done for every customer and employee, as a safety measure before entering the Park. Due to the large area of the Park, it is very easy for customer families and individuals to maintain social distance. The Park has also added sanitisation and handwash stations across the premises.

Presently, only a limited number of customers are permitted to enter the Park in a day. The staff has also undergone extensive re-training to ensure the safety and happiness of customers. As per COVID-19 rules, masks and face shields are made compulsory for the staff.

During the lockdown, the Park has also implemented several new attractions — GRS Up Down Museum, an upside-down illusion attraction which is for the first time in India.

GRS - Augmented Reality Attraction: In this, the customer is transported into a virtual world full of animals and dinosaurs. But the much-loved GRS Snow Park remains closed.

Online bookings: To avoid customers standing in queues, the online booking facility has been made available.

GRS Fantasy Park is open from 11 am to 6 pm every day except Wednesday. [Mob: 95900-80808]

MCC to allot QR code for each property in city

Mysuru, Dec. 20 (SSV)- Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has become the first Corporation in the entire country to undertake the surveying of properties coming under its limits and geo stamp them for effective use of online platforms for payment of taxes.

In a press release here, Gurudatta Hegde, Commissioner of MCC, has said already property owners were paying tax for the year 2020-21 through online.

To enable citizens to calculate property tax themselves, a new system is being evolved under which all properties under the ambit of Corporation would be surveyed and geo-stamped. Total size of property, floors and details would be surveyed and pictures of the property from three different angles will be captured. Then, **Quick Response (QR) Code** sticker would be pasted on the properties.

> "This will have links to vote in Swachh Survekshan, enable tax payers to pay all taxes from home from March 2021. It will have links to important announcements of the MCC."
>
> **—Gurudatta Hegde, Commissioner, MCC**

He said, each property would have different QR Code and scanning of code would help the citizens to get useful information such as water tax, property tax, trade licence and Swachh Survekshan. This would prevent people from frequenting the offices of Corporation for payment of taxes. Henceforth, people could sit back at home and pay taxes online. **"The MCC is the first Corporation in the nation to launch this project,"** he added.

Hegde said officials and staff from the Corporation would visit every house in the city and citizens must not only provide documents to them but also reply to all questions asked by them. They also should be allowed to take pictures of properties.

Financial aid for theses

Mysuru, Dec. 20- The Department of Kannada and Culture has invited applications from candidates who have completed M.Phil and Ph.D for obtaining financial assistance for publication of their theses. Candidates who have received M.Phil degree for their thesis (written in Kannada language) on any subjects and Ph.D holders for their thesis (written in Kannada language) from Universities, in the academic year 2019-20, are eligible to apply for financial aid.

Kannada non-fiction works published between January 2019 and December 2019 (first edition) are also considered.

For publication of M.Phil and Ph.D theses, applications should be submitted through Seva Sindhu portal. For publication of Kannada non-fiction works, prescribed format can be downloaded from *http://kannadasiri.in/* and apply before Jan. 16. [Ph: 0821-2513225]

No Suttur Jatra Mahotsava in 2021

Mysuru, Dec. 20- Suttur Jatra Mahotsava, which is held every year from auspicious Pushya Bahula Dwadashi to Magha Shuddha Tadige, supposed to be held from February 8, 2021 to February 13, 2021 at Suttur Srikshetra in Nanjangud taluk, has been cancelled owing to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

All programmes being held every year, as part of Annual Jatra Mahotsava of Adi Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara Shivayogi Mahaswamiji, popularly known as Suttur Jatra, including Rathotsava, Theppotsava, Kondotsava, Prabhat Pheri, Laksha Deepotsava, Jangamotsava, Gurubrahmotsava, Krishi Mela, Doni Vihara, Desi Games, Kusti, Cultural and Religious Programmes, Agricultural Fair and Expo, Bhajana Mela, Mass Marriage, Cattle Fair, Drawing Competitions, Chitra Sante, Quiz, Rangoli, Sobane and Kite Flying Contests, Theatre Activities and Maha Dasoha have been cancelled this time.

But rituals and religious events will be held as usual on Pushya Bahula Trayodashi (Feb. 9) according to the tradition. Special Pujas including taking Utsava Murthy from Srimutt to Karthru Gadduge, offering puja to Someshwara, Mahadeshwara, Veerabhadreshwara, Narayanaswamy and other idols will also be held. Rathotsava, Theppotsava and other such activities will be held according to the tradition but in a simple and symbolic manner. All rituals and ceremonies will be telecasted online for the benefit of devotees.

NEWS BRIEFS

Online meditation workshop

Art of Living will conduct online breath and meditation workshop from Dec. 24 to 27 with exclusive sessions with Sri Ravishankar Guruji from 6 pm to 8 pm and 11 am to 1 pm. Interested may contact Mob: 63618-61973 or 98459-63387.

Applications invited

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in association with the State Government, is selecting two resource persons to supervise Centrally-sponsored PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme) being implemented under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for implementation of the scheme as resource persons in Mysuru district. Apply before Dec. 30. For details, candidates are advised to contact office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture in their taluks or call Mob: 82779-33104.

Deadline extended

The deadline for submitting applications to the entrance test for admission to sixth standard and ninth standard (2020-21) in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Doddamaragowdanahalli (DMG Halli) in Mysuru taluk has been extended to Dec. 29 and Dec. 31 respectively. Entrance test for admission to sixth standard will take place on April 10, 2021 and that for ninth standard on Feb. 13, 2021. Students who have already applied for sixth standard entrance test, can make corrections in their application forms, if any, on Dec. 30 and 31. Applications can be submitted online — www.navodaya.gov.in till Dec. 29. The application forms for admission to vacant seats in ninth standard can be sent online till Dec. 31 through — www.navodaya.gov.in or www.nvsadmissionclassnine.in. For details, call Ph: 0821-2970040.

KRS Water Level

(Maximum : 124.80 feet)

Today	119.48 ft
Yesterday	119.53 ft
Inflow	2,302 cusecs
Outflow	2,855 cusecs

Kabini Level

(Maximum : 2,284.00 feet)

Today	2,271.14 ft
Inflow	478 cusecs
Outflow	825 cusecs

Harangi Level

(Maximum : 2,859.00 feet)

Today	2,821.81 ft
Inflow	184 cusecs
Outflow	920 cusecs

Four juveniles involved in heinous crimes considered as adults

Parashurama

Mandya, Dec. 20 (KS)- Four juveniles who were allegedly involved in four heinous crime cases including rape and murder of a minor girl and the murder of a rowdy-sheeter in Mandya have been considered as adults. They will not be treated as juveniles and they will face the law.

In a press release, Mandya Superintendent of Police (SP) Parashuram has stated that Santosh Nayaka and a few fellow Lambani community people had come from Ballari for harvesting sugarcane crop at Koppa and surrounding villages. They used to come during harvesting time since many years, finish the work and return. They had come to Mandya five months back and had pitched tents near Hurugalawadi village.

The SP has further stated that Santhosh Nayaka and his wife had gone to harvest sugarcane in the fields of one Cheluvaraju on Dec. 2 leaving behind their children including an 11-year-old daughter. She was spotted by a 17-year-old juvenile who lured her to a sugarcane field telling her that he would catch some fish to her. But as they reached the field, he raped her and to conceal his crime, the juvenile killed the girl by strangulating. He fled the spot and based on eye-witness accounts, a case was booked against him.

This juvenile apart, three more juveniles were involved in separate crimes. While one juvenile had allegedly murdered a minor boy identified as Raghu of K. Shettahalli village in Maddur taluk coming under K.M. Doddi village, another juvenile was involved in the murder of a rowdy-sheeter Sumanth in Mandya East Police limits.

One more juvenile was involved in a dacoity case where a lorry going towards Tamil Nadu on Srirangapatna-Bannur Road was waylaid in Arakere Police limits. The juvenile had also assaulted the occupants of the vehicle before fleeing with valuables.

As per column 15 and 19 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, children between 16 and 18 years involved in serious offences (crimes) such children's social background, mental status, physical ability and the crimes committed could be checked, consider them as adults and can be interrogated, the SP's release stated.

In this backdrop, following the Juvenile Justice Board has ordered to treat the above four juveniles as adults and transfer the cases to District Sessions Court/ Juvenile Court for further hearing, the SP stated in the release.

GP Polls: Excise Dept. seizes liquor worth Rs. 10.17 lakh

Mysuru, Dec. 20 (KS)- Following announcement of Gram Panchayat (GP) polls and model code of conduct in force, the Excise Department officials, who conducted 165 raids from Nov. 30 to Dec. 17 in Mysuru Rural District limits, have registered a total of 116 cases besides arresting 102 accused and seizing liquor worth Rs. 10,17,912 and 18 vehicles.

The seized liquor consists 553.192 litres hard liquor and 16.470 litres beer, according to the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Mysuru Rural District.

Former KSOU VC no more

Prof. Krishnan

Mysuru, Dec. 20- Prof. M.G. Krishnan (70), former Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, passed away yesterday afternoon at a private hospital in Bengaluru following brief illness. He leaves behind his wife Malathi and son Vikas. Last rites were performed in Bengaluru today.

A native of Maarasinganahalli in Maddur taluk of Mandya, he served as the Professor of Political Science at Bangalore University besides serving as the Director of Adult Education for sometime before serving as the VC of KSOU in Mysuru from 2013 to 2016. After retiring from service, Prof. Krishnan shifted to Bengaluru and was residing at Chandra Layout there.

Obituary

Gaffar Ali Baig

Mysuru, Dec. 20- Gaffar Ali Baig (72), retired Chief Security and Vigilance Officer at KSRTC, passed away in the wee hours of today. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and a son.

Namaz-e-Janaza was held after Zohar at Masij-e-Azam on Ashoka Road, followed by the burial at the Muslim Burial Grounds near Tipu Circle.

M.B. Nagendra Simha

M.B. Nagendra Simha (67), son of M.V. Bhojayya, Proprietor of Bhojayya and Sons, passed away yesterday at his residence in Jayalakshmipuram in city.

He leaves behind his wife Tejovathi, sons Bharat Simha and Amruth Simha and daughter-in-law Prathima. Last rites were performed at Jodi Tenginamara Burial Grounds in Bannimantap today.

Rangaswamy

Rangaswamy (74), retired Police official and a resident of Sharadanagar in Bogadi Railway Layout, passed away yesterday in city. A native of Chamarajanagar, he leaves behind his wife and three sons.

Last rites were performed at Chamarajanagar this morning.

R. Surendra

R. Surendra (68), a native of Pandavapura, who was residing at his son's residence in Mysuru, passed away at a private hospital in city on Friday following brief illness.

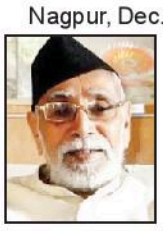
He leaves behind his wife, two sons including journalist S. Raju and a daughter. Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in city.

M.R. Ramakrishna

H.D. Kote: M.R. Ramakrishna (91), a retired Railways employee and a native of Magge village in H.D. Kote taluk, passed away at his residence in Paramount Gardens, Talaghattapura in Bengaluru, yesterday.

He leaves behind a son, two daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. Last rites were performed at Banashankari Crematorium today.

RSS ideologue and first Spokesperson M.G. Vaidya passes away



M.G. Vaidya

Nagpur, Dec. 20- Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue and the first Spokesperson of the organisation M.G. Vaidya passed away after a brief illness at Nagpur yesterday. He was 97.

Dr. Manmohan Vaidya, Joint General Secretary of RSS and son of M.G. Vaidya, in a tweet yesterday said, "Shri MG Vaidya, my father breathed his last today at 3.35 pm at Nagpur after completing 97 years of active, meaningful and inspiring life. He was a veteran journalist, a Hindutva "Bhashyakar" and active Sangh (RSS) Swayamsevak for 9 decades."

A former Editor of pro-RSS Marathi daily 'Tarun Bharat', Vaidya had also served as RSS' first spokesperson and Bouddhik Pramukh (intellectual wing chief).

PM Narendra Modi condoled the demise and tweeted, "Shri MG Vaidya Ji was a distinguished writer and journalist. He contributed extensively to the RSS for decades. He also worked to strengthen the BJP. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

M.G. Vaidya was undergoing treatment for illness at Spandan Hospital, where he breathed his last 3.35 pm yesterday. Funeral was held at Ambazari Ghat in Nagpur at 9.30 am today.

'Janapada Suggi' held in city sans audience

Karnataka Janapada Academy Chairperson B. Manjamma Jogati (right) beating the drum to inaugurate 'Janapada Suggi' at Kalamandira this morning as MLA L. Nagendra, ZAK Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy, MyLac Chairman N.V. Phaneesh, KEA Chairman Hemanth Kumar Gowda and others look on.

Mysuru, Dec. 20 (MTY&SSV)- A variety of rich folk art was unveiled as part of 'Janapada Suggi' held in connection with World Folklore Day, organised by Kannada Janapada Academy at Kalamandira in city this morning.

Various cultural troupes such as *Kamsale, Nagaari, Veeragase, Puja Kunita, Dollu Kunita, Tamate Vaadana, Gorovara Kunita, Suggi Kunita* and *Sambala Vaadana* among others, dressed in colourful attire gave a festive atmosphere to the event before a handful of audience.

In the absence of District Minister S.T. Somashekar, Chamaraja Karnataka Janapada Academy Chairperson B. Manjamma Jogati along with MLA L. Nagendra opened the event be beating drums.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nagendra called upon the people to protect and promote rich folk art for the next generation. "The folklore helps in building a responsible society. The uniqueness of this art has been conveying experience in life through entertainment. This was still surviving in rural areas and it was the duty of everyone to protect it for the coming generation," he added.

Academy Chairperson B. Manjamma Jogati said "One can master art through dedication, hard work and devotion. Parents must make their children to learn at least one art form."

Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Chairman L. R. Mahadevaswamy, MyLAC Chairman N.V. Phaneesh, Karnataka Exhibition Authority (KEA) Chairman Hemanth Kumar Gowda, Janapada Academy Member-Convener G.R. Srivatsa, Academy Registrar N. Namratha, Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director H. Chennappa and others were present.

Road-cutting

Jodi Tenginamara Road repaired

Mysuru, Dec.20 (SSV) - Repair of Jodi Tenginamara Road at Bannimantap, which was cut at various points by CESC to lay underground power cables, began this morning.

Star of Mysore had carried the news titled 'Road Cutters Beware! MCC is watching' on Dec. 17, highlighting the problems faced by public due to reckless cutting of the road by CESC more than two months ago.

The CESC contractors at various spots on the more than 2 km stretch of the Jodi Tenginamara Road had cut the road to lay underground power cables. After the completion of work, the contractors failed to fill the cut portion and asphalting it which was causing problems to motorists especially two-wheeler riders due to the deep cutting of road.

This morning, the contractor took up the works, filled the cuttings and patched up the cuttings to make it motorable.

Zip to Bengaluru in just 90 minutes

(Continued from page 1)

The event was presided over by Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and was attended by former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Sadananda Gowda, Gen. (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh, Ministers from the State and senior officers.

Food Parks at Ramanagara

The Mysuru-Bengaluru Economic Corridor project is estimated at Rs. 7,400 crore and works are underway in two packages -- Bengaluru to Nidaghatta in Maddur taluk at the cost of Rs. 3,000 crore and Nidaghatta to Mysuru at the cost of Rs.3,500 crore. Over 2,021 acres of land has been acquired for both the phases, he said, mentioning that of the 10 lanes, the Economic Corridor will be six lanes and there will be two top-class service roads on either side of the Corridor.

For the convenience of the commuters, food parks will be established near Ramanagara on both sides of the 10-lane Highway and the food parks will also have places to relax and unwind. There will not be any inconvenience to the commuters, villagers on both sides and the people moving on the service roads. "The project is well planned and the scope of the work also includes construction of nine major bridges, 44 minor bridges and four road over bridges and road under bridges," he added.

"The projects that have been inaugurated now will pave the way for the development of Karnataka and the roads will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in the State," Gadkari said.

Ethanol production

Gadkari called upon Karnataka to take up the production of Ethanol in a big way, as it is one of the largest producers of sugarcane in the country. He said, the country is already over-producing sugar and rice and sufficient stock is available with the Government.

The surplus may be converted to Ethanol, which can be used as an alternative fuel for vehicles. He said this will not only improve farmers' income but will also be an indigenous source of fuel for the country.

Yediyurappa said the road projects will be a game changer in boosting the economy and improving connectivity in the country. He assured to take forward all the suggestions given by the Union Minister. He said his Government is committed to the development of the State and uplifting the lifestyle of its people. He said he is working in co-operation with the Centre to achieve his Government's targets.

Raided ACF's total assets valued at Rs.4.41 crore

Assets 301.39 percent more than his known sources of income

Mysuru, Dec.20 (RK&SSV)- The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) have unearthed assets worth Rs. 4,41,52,952 owned by P. Shivashankaraswamy, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF). The ACF's palatial house in city was raided recently. The officer's assets were 301.39 per cent more than his known sources of income.

According to ACB officials, the raids on six premises of the ACF last Friday unearthed two cars worth Rs.14.50 lakh, two two-wheelers, 472 grams gold ornaments worth Rs. 19,90,000, 3 kg silver ornaments, furniture valued at Rs. 8,30,000 and Rs. 18,66,500 cash. All worth of movable properties has been put together at Rs. 61,36,500.

The officials said Mallika, wife of Shivashankaraswamy owns 1.10 acres of land in Survey Number 280 at Chatnahalli in Varuna Hobli valued at Rs.11,56,250, 2 guntas of land in Gohalli in Yelwal Hobli, 1.4 acres of land in Chatnahalli in Varuna Hobli,

one plot in JSS Senior Students Housing Co-operative Society and one site in Lalithadripura. In the name of his son, S. Ritesh, the ACF owns 2.20 acres of land worth Rs. 13,22,510.

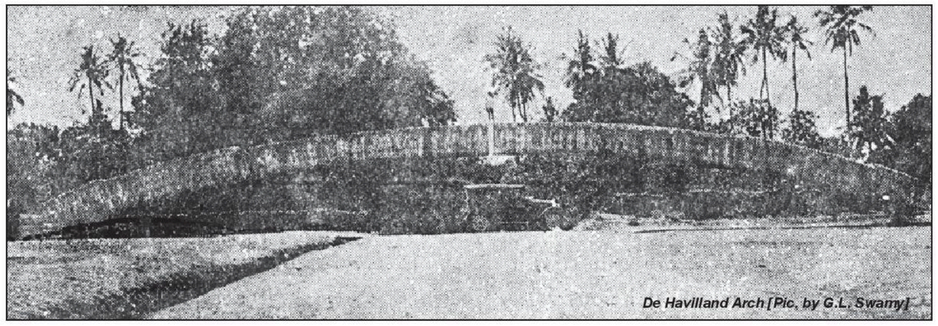
Besides, in the name of Dr. M. Nanjundappa, the ACF has 1.36 acres of land in Hongadi village in Varuna, 20.64 acres of land near Chatnahalli, 18 guntas of land near Muddanahalli in Nanjangud taluk. Several other properties have been allegedly purchased by him and several names. The total value of immovable properties is around Rs.3,18,16,452.

The disproportionate income of the ACF Shivashankaraswamy has been around Rs.3,31,52,952, ACB officials said.

Mysuru: A Look at its Past...

By Gouri Satya, Sr. Journalist

De Havilland Arch was an engineering marvel



De Havilland Arch [Pic. by G.L. Swamy]

I am happy that my book 'Colonial Landmarks in Mysuru' has prompted *Star of Mysore* columnist Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem to write about the Webb's monument and the De Havilland Arch at Srirangapatna. *SOM* of Dec. 13 was a pleasure to read because of the news item, "Chamundi Hill to get new stone stairway," Dr. Nayeem's column highlighting "Another forgotten landmark from a bygone era!" and the first part of the feature titled "Kannada Literature's Gentle Giant", Prof V. Seetharamaiah, popularly known as Vi.Si. by Dr. S.N. Bhagirath, grandson of renowned historian and Indologist, Prof. S. Srikanta Sastri, Professor of History, University of Mysore. While the first two were of historical significance, the last one was of literary interest.

The stairway to Chamundi Hill from the Uthanahalli side is of historical significance. While the 1,008 steps from the front side of the Hill is said to have been erected by Devaraja Wadiyar, there is no record about when the steps from the Uthanahalli side were constructed or by whom. However, it appears to be older than the steps presently popular on the front side of the Hill.

Much older stairway

A few days back, Sadananda Raje Urs had posted the *SOM's* report on his Facebook account. Reacting to it, Raja Chandra of the erstwhile royal family, who regularly posts some interesting information or the other on Mysuru's past, observed, "I feel it is more ancient than the one from Mysore. It is my belief that the present Adajana / Hadajana near Jwalamukhi Tripurasundari Temple was the original place where Yaduraya founded the dynasty. This must have been the stairway from that period. But after Devaraja Wadiyar built the extant stairway and Mysore became capital, the focus shifted and the old one fell into disuse. More so after Douglas Rice built the Road!"

That is what I too felt when I climbed up the Hill through these steps during my high school days along with my adventurous schoolmates. I had the feeling that the stairway looked much older than those on the opposite side of the Chamundi Hill. These steps were not much in use as the foothill was almost like a forest, covered with several trees and wild growth. People were afraid of leopards, which used to make their appearance often attracted by the cattle grazing at the foothills or on the Hill. This is how these old steps came to be neglected and fell into disuse.

John Grimstone Monument (Rana Kambha).

Rana Kambha (Grimstone Memorial)

In his article, Dr. Nayeem has narrated about Webb's monument near Srirangapatna (incidentally, there is one more picture of it which shows how it was fenced and taken good care of). Eagerly looking for this historic monument, I went in search of it a few years ago in Srirangapatna, but only to land at another historic monument at Ganjam erected to the memory of Lt. Col. John Grimstone. This obelisk is now identified as 'Rana Kambha'.

Writing about the memorial, Constance E. Parsons says in her book on 'Seringapatam': "This tomb, not far from the church (Abbe Dubois Church), is marked by a crude white obelisk, enclosed in a high wall. The colonel was governor of the cantonment jail here in1800 and following years. It is said that his discipline was so strict that his death, suspiciously sudden, was lamented by none. Fears were entertained that his grave might be defiled and it was decided to guard it by this high surrounding wall. The inscription on the obelisk may be read by mounting a step, placed for the purpose and peering through a hole high up in the wall."

However, the epitaph on the tomb records that this monument was erected as a tribute to the 'affection and esteem' by his brother officers of his Regiment Foot in 1831.

Epitaph on John Grimstone Tomb (Rana Kambha).

Inscription on Havilland Arch

De Havilland Arch

Now let me turn my attention to the historic arch constructed by De Havilland at Srirangapatna, about which Dr. Nayeem has written in his column in *SOM* on Dec. 13.

My father, G.L. Swamy was a pioneer in tourism in Mysuru. He wrote taluk and district handbooks and later tourist guide books, besides starting 'The Tourist Bureau' in 1940 for the benefit of tourists visiting Mysuru. He wrote a handbook for each taluk and district, the earliest one such being in 1939. He also printed pamphlets on major tourist places and gave them free of cost to the tourists visiting his Bureau.

In the pamphlet titled "Srirangapatna — the Historic City of Mysore", he has shown a photograph of the 'Swinging Arch', probably taken by him before its collapse. In that pamphlet, he writes: "There stood until recently a masonry arch known as the De Havilland Arch. When visitors stood on the keystone and jumped up and down the Arch would swing a depth of two or three inches. It collapsed in July 1935."

In another handbook under the same title, my father writes: "To the west of the temple, visitors could see a mass of brick lying in a line. Here stood till 1936, an arch of 112-foot single span built during Tipu Sultan's time to demonstrate the possibility of building with country bricks a stable arch. It had a strange swinging quality, which was being tested by jumping on its keystone in the centre."

Constance Parsons also mentions this historic arch in her book on "Seringapatam" which I have referred to earlier. She says there, "From the Memorial Mantapa (erected to the memory of Krishnaraja Wadiyar III near Ranganathaswamy Temple) we pass on to what was the garden of Captain de Havilland's house; now a field, empty except for the famous De Havilland Arch constructed by a French engineer who, legend and many guide books assert, was in Tipu's employ. He wished to demonstrate the possibility, which the Sultan denied, of building with country bricks a stable arch with a span of 100 feet. This arch, which has stood for over 130 years, is the result. The span is 112 feet, the width 3 feet and it has no parapet. The keystone, of granite, is remarkably narrow, being hardly perceptibly wider at the top than at the bottom."

De Havilland died at Beauvoir, Guernsey, in 1866 at the age of 90. His wife Elizabeth died in 1816 at the early age of 35 and she was buried in St. George's Cathedral Cemetery, Madras, which was conceived and built by De Havilland himself. Ironically, his wife was among the first to be buried there.

"Every visitor tests its strange vibrating property; the number of persons who have stood above the narrow keystone and shaken this 'Rainbow Bridge' under them must run into hundreds of thousands."

"Captain de Havilland, however, outlived the Sultan."

In a footnote, the author however clarifies, "Later investigation seems to prove that de Havilland was never in Seringapatam during Tipu's reign and that he built the arch about 1809. He designed and constructed the Banquet of Government House, Mysore. In 1809 he was shut up in (Dewan) 'Purnaiah's House' with the officers who mutinied against Sir George Barlow's obnoxious orders. He carried a flag of truce to the authorities in Mysore, and was evidently in the confidence of both parties."

As correctly pointed out by Dr. Nayeem in his article, this interesting arch was constructed by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Fiott de Havilland (1775 - 1866), a British Army officer. He built it nine years after the death of Tipu Sultan and four years after the Wellesley Bridge was constructed in 1804 by Dewan Purnaiah across the Cauvery at Srirangapatna. De Havilland conceived this Arch more as an experimental one. It had a span of 110 feet, a height of 11 feet, and a thickness of three feet.

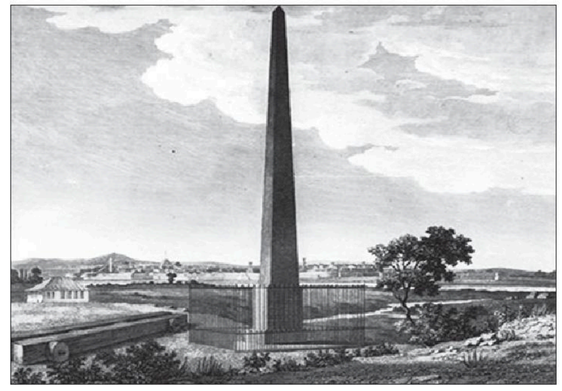
Married to Elizabeth Saumarez in 1808, they had two sons and two daughters. De Havilland died at Beauvoir, Guernsey, in 1866 at the age of 90. His wife Elizabeth died in 1816 at the early age of 35 and she was buried in St. George's Cathedral Cemetery, Madras, which was conceived and built by De Havilland himself. Ironically, his wife was among the first to be buried there.

De Havilland obtained a cadetship in 1793 and was appointed ensign in the Madras engineers. He was appointed Lieutenant in 1796, Captain in 1805, Major in 1815, and Lieutenant-colonel in 1824. He served the force at Pondicherry in 1793 and Ceylon in 1795. He marched with Col. Browne's force of four thousand men from Trichinopoly in the operations against Tipu Sultan in 1799 and later accompanied Baird's troops to Egypt in 1801. After his return, he became a civil engineer and architect for the Madras Presidency, an appointment he held until he retired from service in 1825.

Contract of Building Government House

He was an officer of great enthusiasm and originality. Being an engineer, he was interested in building technology. Native construction methods attracted him. He saw the beautiful dome of Gol Gumbaz in Bijapur, Daria Daulat in Srirangapatna, the monuments of Hyderabad, Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur, and the Palace there and was highly impressed.

One of his earliest successes was building a magnificent banqueting hall in the Mysore Residency, the present Government House, a unique structure that would have a roof without any column support. This was probably due to the patronage extended by Sir John Malcolm, the Resident of Mysore, who in 1807 gave him his first architectural contract for the above work which was to be a wedding gift to Lady Malcolm!



Josiah Webbe Granite Obelisk Monument at Srirangapatna — Engraved in 1823 by Mansoor Ali.

Springing Bridge

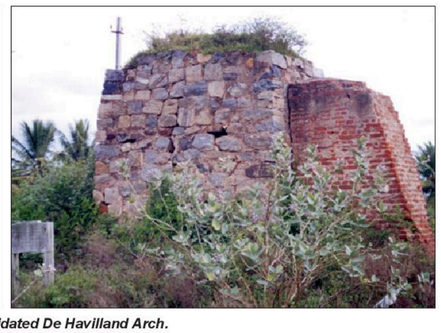
Encouraged by the success of his work, he proposed, when stationed at Srirangapatna, to bridge the Cauvery with five brick arches with local material. It was a very bold conception for that day. However, the authorities rejected his idea. To prove his capacity, De Havilland decided to construct a smaller one at his garden, an arch similar to the one he had planned across the Cauvery. Employing native workers from Srirangapatna and surrounding areas, he used bricks and mortar for its construction. The Arch came to be called the "Springing Bridge".

Following his association with the 1810 Mutiny in protest against the appalling conditions of the Army in Mysore, he was dismissed from service but was reinstated in 1812. He returned to Madras and was appointed civil engineer and architect of the Presidency in 1814.

A handsome church

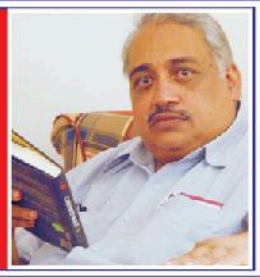
While in Chennai, he constructed the Mount Road and built the bulwark or old sea wall of Chennai (then Madras). In 1822, he wrote a report on Indian limestones and recommended that collectors should be instructed to forward specimens of limestones from their several districts for analysis and comparison of the structural values. The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church built by him in Chennai was considered one of the most handsome European structures in India.

The Swinging Arch, which stood as a tribute to the engineering skill of De Havilland for nearly 127 years, is now hidden amidst thorny bushes in the form of rubble.



Pillars of the dilapidated De Havilland Arch.

Over a cup of evening Tea



By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

Of White Sheep, Grey Sheep and Scapegoats !

Can we ask how many of our leaders would be willing to get themselves and their family members operated upon by AYUSH surgeons in the days to come? Do they have the courage to lie down and go under the new knife?

Very recently the **Indian Medical Association (IMA),** the largest professional body of the practitioners of Allopathic Medicine in the country, went on a nationwide strike, halting all routine work for a day on 11th, December 2020. This it did in protest against the gazette notification of November 19 through which the Central Government proposes to roll out a scheme of training **AYUSH** doctors in almost all surgical specialties and allowing them to perform almost all kinds of surgeries.

When I say all kinds of surgeries, I mean just that because the Government Order includes 39 General Surgery, Urology and Gastroenterology procedures and 19 surgical procedures involving the eye, ear, nose and throat. This the Government proposes to do by amending the **General Council of Indian Medicine (GCIM) Act of 2016.** This means that graduates of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine can now acquire post-graduate training and qualification in surgical fields, without any full-fledged under-graduate training course in Allopathic medicine, like the MBBS, which is the basic qualification for any doctor today.

While the competition today to enter the most basic MBBS course, which almost never takes a doctor anywhere, is bad enough, it is searing when it comes to entering post-graduate courses in almost all specialties. And, while it is hard enough for anyone to enter the MBBS course, getting a good qualifying score at the post-graduate entrance examination is considered to be the toughest feats anyone can perform.

So, this pursuit and the preparation it takes, can undoubtedly be considered as one of the commonest causes for stress and frustration in our young medical graduates today, whose parents are not rich enough to spend the tons of money that it takes to buy them seats for post-graduate medical courses.

While this is the ground reality, this new scheme will now allow even the not-so-bright candidates to get into any one of the easier-to-enter streams of under-graduate medicine like Ayurveda, Unani or Siddha first and then with equal ease take up post-graduate studies and training in any surgical stream of their choice. Literally, a short-cut through the back door! And, after that, the sky is the limit! They can practice in their chosen specialty and perform all kinds of surgeries without the robust foundation of the MBBS course and also follow up their handiwork by prescribing all the drugs that their patients require to be treated with, in the post-operative period.

It is a different matter perhaps for our Government that they will still not be knowing the chemistry, the actions, the interactions and the side-effects of the array of drugs they will be playing with, some of which can be potentially very dangerous too. The Government is also not very clear about who will administer the anaesthesia for these operations but let me tell you that anaesthesia is a very serious business indeed and a completely different kind of ball game, where the dividing line between life and death is very thin and sometimes almost invisible!

No other Government anywhere in the world, including in China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia or Singapore, where Chinese indigenous medicine plays a very active role in the lives of their people, allows this kind of lethal **'Mixopathy'** which is what we are all slated to see if our Government goes ahead with its Quixotic plan. Although our Government has not said why it has come up with this grandiose plan there are loud whispers in the corridors of power that through this lofty proposal it plans to effortlessly wipe out the lack of surgical facilities in the deeper rural reaches of our country. It keeps quoting, *ad nauseam,* the shortage of doctors in our villages and their unwillingness to serve there, an argument that the huge rural vote banks too lap up very willingly whose votes any Government would want to stay in power, election after election! I have a feeling that the Government may have developed a notion that since indigenous streams of medicine and activities like Yoga and meditation have an innate 'Indianness' associated with them, promoting them vigorously may strengthen our national spirit.

But what it has failed to understand is that while letting loose very willing and very visibly labelled but only half-baked surgeons on our rural masses is easy, it is not so easy to create the infrastructure that will support their surgical work. Setting up safe surgical facilities in the remotest reaches of our vast country and recruiting the required manpower to run them efficiently is not going to be easy. I say this because I don't think any Government can take on this much more formidable task when it has not been able to provide basic living and working facilities for doctors who are now posted to our rural health centres.

This sorry state of affairs is all too well-known to every one of us across the entire country today and the situation has not shown any signs of improving over the remote or recent past. That is why qualified doctors are shy of serving in villages and find some real excuses like bettering their qualifications and some very lame ones too like taking up training deputations at cities, to avoid staying there for long.

I think I am eminently qualified to make this statement because I am not just a city-based bystander but a doctor with post-graduate qualifications who has served in one of the remotest and most backward areas of our State for many years. But while only half the reason why I was able to do this was my own determination and resolve, the other half was because the large private health-care group that I was attached to, provided me with very decent living quarters, a more than decent working atmosphere, good lab and pharmacy support and above all a formidable work force with the highest levels of dedication!

While I am happy to say that there are hundreds of NGOs that are doing similar work in our rural areas across our country today, I do not know of the existence of any rural health care project managed entirely by the Govt., anywhere in the country that can match their performance. The sad part is that no Government, either at the Centre or in any of our States, has made a sincere attempt to understand the working of such models, let alone replicating them effectively for the benefit of our villagers who have to therefore depend mostly on quacks and charlatans who not only cheat them but also regularly put their lives in peril.

Since they are humble, unlettered folks, their predicament is completely unknown to them and sadly it is also completely unimportant to unmindful leaders and law-makers who are preoccupied with their own selfish priorities. And, what I mean by selfish priorities needs no explanation because it is an open secret which we all know and which we have all come to accept, with our servile colonial mindset.

If our Government is determined to create a parallel work force of non-allopathic surgeons, armed with just knives, through an ordinance or an amendment of the law, nothing can prevent it from doing so. **But let it make it mandatory for them to clearly state their full qualifications, including their undergraduate ones after their names everywhere, so that the people who go to them can know very clearly whether they are dealing with the kind of practitioners they are seeking.** Someone should not mistake an AYUSH surgeon for an allopathic one. I say this because subterfuge and surrogate advertising are naturally bound to become commonplace when the new order becomes commonplace.

As it is, although the nearly decade old KPME Act makes it mandatory for all doctors to show on their letterheads and the nameboards of their establishments, the exact details of the subjects in which they have acquired their degrees, most of us do not do so. **So even among white-coated doctors who are being increasingly viewed with suspicion by the public we have a good many of 'grey sheep' who practice one kind of medicine while holding qualifications of a completely different kind!**

Now with AYUSH surgeons on the way, the question we should all ask as responsible citizens is whether our Government is right in exposing our rural folks to the risks of this kind of a second line of not-so-safe surgery, by hands that have not had the best training to operate on them? Can they be treated as sacrificial scapegoats and are their lives so dispensable that their loss becomes some kind of an acceptable collateral damage that effectively masks our own inefficiency in doing our best?

And, most importantly, can we also ask how many of our leaders would be willing to get themselves and their family members operated upon by AYUSH surgeons in the days to come? **Do they have the courage to lie down and go under the new knife? I think not, because courage is made of much tougher stuff!**

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Maiden Bird Festival amidst BRT Sanctuary's rich biodiversity

From Jan. 5 to 7, seven routes to be covered

Mysuru, Dec. 20 (MTY&BCT)- The verdant Western Ghats is full of endemic species. But now is a crucial moment for the wildlife, especially, the birds where they run into extinction.

In an attempt to save the vanishing avian species and to connect people to the rich avian diversity, the Forest Department is organising a three-day Bird Festival at Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagar District that is also a Tiger Protected Zone. The festival will be held from Jan. 5 to Jan. 7, 2021.

The Festival has the objective of watching birds and listening to them, identifying the species and noting observations in this lesser-explored forest habitat. The BRT Sanctuary has more than 274 species of birds and the rich biodiversity of the area supports rich flora and fauna.

Online booking opens

Mysuru, Dec. 20- Those who want to take part in the Bird Festival at BRT Wildlife Sanctuary from Jan. 5 to 7 can book online and Rs. 828 has been fixed per ticket.

Tickets can be booked at *https://myecotrip.com/* the ecotourism website of Forest Department from where visitors can click Karnataka Bird Festival-2021 Seventh Edition link on the website. The ticket price includes service charge of Rs. 23.73 and a GST of Rs. 4.27. The actual cost of the ticket is Rs. 800.

After tickets are booked, the bird-watchers must reach the venue at the scheduled time. They must carry own water bottles and binoculars during the event. They have to follow the COVID protocols as per the Government guidelines during the event. The detailed itinerary of the event will be shared shortly on the website.

Wide range of faunal diversity

The BRT Sanctuary, spread across 359.10 square kilometres, has a mountain range of 574.82 square kilometres. It is rich in biodiversity, with 776 species of higher plants, more than 36 mammals and 145 species of butterflies.

The Sanctuary has been considered as a live bridge between the Eastern and Western Ghats and the high variation in the altitude has led to diverse vegetation types varying from dry open scrub forests at lower elevation to shola forests and grass hills at higher altitude making this landscape home to a wide range of faunal diversity.

The Sanctuary is also a part of the larger forest complex of the region considered for the conservation of Asian elephant and tiger. This forest complex is one of the areas having the largest population of elephants and tigers in the wild.

Brown Wood Owl spotted

The biodiversity of BRT Sanctuary is similar to that of Western Ghats with a significant proportion of Eastern Ghats elements as well. It is the only large patch of forest left outside the main Western Ghats.

The major vegetation is deciduous, scrub and grassland, evergreen sholas. This is the reason why the Sanctuary supports 274 species of birds.

Recently, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ramachandra photographed a Brown Wood Owl — a species uncommon throughout most of range in Indian Subcontinent — in the Sanctuary. **Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Chamarajanagar Circle, Manoj Kumar** told *Star of Mysore* that the Bird Festival will be conducted along seven routes in the Sanctuary.

First bird festival at BRT

"The State-level Bird Festivals conducted in the past have been highly successful with participants from across the other States. Earlier, such festivals were conducted in Mysuru, Srirangapatna, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Dandeli, Mangaluru and Ballari. There was pressure on the Forest Department to conduct such a festival at BRT Sanctuary because of its rich biodiversity," he added.

Manoj Kumar, CCF

Manoj Kumar said that it is for the first time a Bird Festival is being conducted in BRT Reserve and the birders will be grouped. Experts and bird scientists will be roped in along with resource persons to give information about the bird species. Special lectures will be organised as part of the festival, he revealed.

Areas and zones within the BRT Sanctuary such as Kyatheshwara Gudi (K. Gudi), Punajanoor, Chamarajanagar, Yelandoor and Bayaloor will be covered during the festival. Birds sighted will be documented, collated and a unified data will be recorded. In the end, a comprehensive list of birds will be compiled, Manoj Kumar added.

Biker buddies

Challenging Star Darshan, who is known to be a bike lover and who owns a couple of expensive superbikes, is seen posing for a photo with his fan near Gundlupet yesterday. He was returning from a trip to Kerala along with his group of bike friends including actors Prajwal Devaraj and Chikkanna. They had been to the neighbouring State on 18 bikes. They returned via the Moolehole check-post of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. Forest Department staff and the Police, who saw Darshan, competed with each other to pose for a photograph with him.

CCF, Wildlife Board Member feted

Chamarajanagar Circle Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Manoj Kumar** (sitting right) **and journalist Vinod Kumar Nayak, who has been nominated as Wildlife Board Member, were felicitated by Mysuru journalists and photographers at the State-level Media Workshop held at K.Gudi coming under BRT Wildlife Sanctuary on Dec.16. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shivaraj Singh, BRT Sanctuary Director Santhosh Kumar, journalists M.T. Yogesh Kumar, Ajith, Guruprasad, Mahadevaswamy and photographers M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav, Uday Shankar and Hampa Nagaraj are seen.

15-minute movie 'The Day I Met Joshua'

Mysuru Sisters win Hollywood Gold Award

Mysuru, Dec. 20 (BCT)- A movie that has been made by two sisters who have their roots in Mysuru has bagged Hollywood Gold Awards Certificate for original story. The movie, 'The Day I Met Joshua' has bagged the award in recognition of excellence in film-making.

The movie has been written, edited and directed by Rajni Mysore Chamaraj and her sister Shynica Mysore Chamaraj, who is also the writer and executive producer of the movie. It is a 15-minute movie, short drama and tells the story of Reena, a social media influencer, who encounters an unusual moment in the desert where she gets a glimpse of her true self as she experiences a moment that opens doors to a long path of self-discovery.

The movie has a contemporary theme of connectedness in the age of the internet. It is a unique and a powerful perspective on human relationships, nature, and universal consciousness. It is a captivating story of a woman's self-realisation that has the power to touch lives, move people, and change the world.

The movie was recently screened at the prestigious Yellowknife Film Festival, A Canadian Academy qualifying festival. It was screened to a private audience at the Warner bros. Studios in Burbank, California, in the very same auditorium where Hollywood's iconic films like 'Casablanca' and 'Blade Runner' were screened.

Rajni is the elder of the two sisters and she won the Best Debut Director in the Hollywood Film Awards and the Best Editor in the New York Movie Awards.

Rajni Mysore Chamaraj (left) with sister Shynica Mysore Chamaraj.

Rajni Mysore Chamaraj with actor Kelly Tappan.

The sisters did their schooling in Mysuru at Manasarowar Pushkarini Vidyashrama and college education at Mahajana institutions. Rajni currently stays in Los Angeles after completing her Master's degree in Film and Media production from New York Film Academy. Shynica currently works in the Indian Film industry shuttling between Mumbai and Hyderabad.

Their mother Rajashree Mysore Srinivasan is a KAS Officer and father Chamaraj Mysore Ramamurthy is a Civil Engineer. They were earlier residents of Mysuru but shifted to Bengaluru due to professional reasons.

The sisters' maternal grandfather M.R. Srinivasan was a Kannada film producer and was fondly known as Premier Srinivas. His film 'Avala Antharanga' won Karnataka State Film Awards in several categories. His other films including 'Anna Athigae' starring *Sahasa Simha* late Dr. Vishnuvardan and Bharathi also was a hit among the audience.

The team of short-film 'The Day I Met Joshua.'

Subramanya Shashti at Siddalingapura

(Continued from page 1)

From the Treasury, the Temple authorities had brought the three feet tall silver Nagabharana that has a snake figure with seven heads.

The Nagabharana was donated to the Temple in 1973 by Jayachamaraja Wadiyar following the birth of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar. This silver valuable is displayed only once in a year during Subramanya Shashti at Siddalingapura.

The team of over 30 to 40 Policemen had a tough time in controlling the devotees as they lined up to pray from the opposite side of the Temple as the Temple premises was out of bounds. Devotees were seen stopping their vehicles on the opposite side and praying to the Lord. This at times caused traffic jams.

Announcements were made using mike sets by Police warning people not to stop their vehicles and even cases were booked after clicking the photos of violating vehicles.

As the main Temple was closely guarded by the Police, devotees were seen praying to couple of anthills located in the 500-metre surroundings of the Temple.

A mini-fair was witnessed here with people queuing up to pray and also merchants selling snacks, flowers and puffed rice. Devotees could leisurely park their vehicles as the road is being widened into a 10-lane Highway. After performing the rituals, the devotees were seen heading back to their homes.

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda and his son MCDCC Bank President G.D. Harish Gowda visited the temple and prayed to the Lord.

Fifth SJCE Global Alumni Meet-2020 on Dec. 26

Mysuru, Dec. 20- Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering (SJCE - constituent college under JSS Science and Technology University) has convened the 'Fifth Global Alumni Meet' on Dec. 26 — a memorable stage for the alumni who graduated from SJCE since 1968.

The programme will be inaugurated by Prof. M.H. Dhananjaya, Advisor, Technical Education Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha. The global meet will be conducted through Virtual Mode from 10 am onwards.

Executive Members Mahesh Nagarajiaha, President, D. Sudhanva, Vice-President, M.D. Harinath, Secretary and Shivakumar, Treasurer, will be joining the meet. Former Principals, Professors and alumni from India, USA, Europe, Singapore, Australia and other parts of the globe will also attend.

Distinguished Alumni

This year SJCE has identified three Distinguished Alumni: **Dr. Anand Avathi,** who is currently at the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab, working with Prof. Andrew Ng. His work involved machine learning research and its applications to healthcare. Previously he was a Consulting Engineer at the Office of the CTO at Red Hat, where he joined via the acquisition of Gluster Inc.

Anand has authored several impactful research papers published in leading machine learning conferences and medical journals, and has over twenty issued patents. He holds graduate degrees in Statistics and Computer Science from Stanford University, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from SJCE.

Flight Lieutenant Meghana Shanbough graduated from Information Science and Engineering at SJCE (2011-15 batch). She appeared for AFCAT in Feb 2016, got selected into the flying branch of the Indian Air Force in Dec. 2016, after having cleared the SSB (Service Selection Board). She underwent training at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, for a year and half and in June 2018, got commissioned into the 'Fighter' stream of the Indian Air Force.

During the initial training at the Air Force Academy, flew the Pilatus PC-7 aircraft. Thereafter, flew the HAL built Kiran Mk-1 aircraft. After being commissioned, she spent six months each in Bidar and Kalaikunda flying the British made Hawk Mk-132 aircraft. Thereafter got posted to a MiG-21 squadron at a forward base.

Capt. Sharath Mano, alumni of Industrial and Production Engineering, is working as a Company Commander of an Infantry Battalion at Super High Altitude region of Batalik sector. He has been awarded with Sainya Seva Medal with clasp Jammu and Kashmir and Ucchh Tungta Medal. He specialised in Armoured Fighting Vehicles.

Interested alumni may register at *www.sjcealumni.org.* or contact Dr. B.S. Harish, Coordinator, SJCE Alumni Association, via e-mail: *fromsjcealumni@gmail.com* or Mob: 98867-79078.

Selection trial for admission to Sports Hostels on Dec. 29, 30

Mysuru, Dec. 20- The District-level selection trials for admission (boys and girls) to 8th standard and 1st PUC in Sports Schools/ Hostels (2020-21) in the State will take place at Chamundi Vihar Stadium in Nazarbad here on Dec. 29 and 30.

The upper age limit for admission to 8th standard is 14 years as on June 1, 2021 (born on or after June 1, 2007). The selection trials will take place on Dec.29.

The upper age limit for admission to 1st PUC is 18 years as on June 1, 2021 (born on or after June 1, 2003). The selection trials will be held on Dec. 30.

Interested eligible students from eight taluks of the district can apply. The application forms are available at the office of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES), Chamundi Vihar Stadium. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2564179.

EVENTS TODAY (DEC. 20)

- **Gruha Shobhe:** International Living Style Exhibition, special attraction - Ayodhya Ram Mandir, Dasara Exhibition Ground, **up to 9 pm.**
- **Natana School of Theatre Arts:** Staging of play 'T. Prasannana Grihasthashrama' (written by P. Lankesh and directed by Megha Sameer), School premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm.**
- **Rangayana:** Staging of play 'Chirebandi Vaade' (directed by Prameela Bengre), Bhoomigeeta, Rangayana premises, **6.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (DEC. 21)

- **Sundarraj Sneha Kalaniketana:** 40th anniversary celebrations, University of Mysore (UoM) Registrar R. Shivappa inaugurates, UoM Welfare Division Director Dr. Ramaswamy presides, Kannada & Culture Asst. Director H. Chennappa, social worker K. Raghuram Vajpayee, City Co-operative Bank former Director and Janani Seva Trust Hon. President Dr. S. Nagarathna, City Co-operative Bank Director and former Corporator M.K. Ashok, Omkar audio systems owner A. Ananda and DCC (Mysuru City Congress Committee) Executive Member Irfan Pasha chief guests, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **9.30 am.**
- **Gruha Shobhe:** International Living Style Exhibition, special attraction - Ayodhya Ram Mandir, Dasara Exhibition Ground, **10 am to 9 pm.**
- **K.K. Hebbar Art Foundation:** Airing of radio serial titled 'Kala Tapaswi K.K. Hebbar' produced by K.K. Hebbar Art Foundation on FM Rainbow 101.3Mhz and All India Radio (AIR), **2.02 pm to 2.07 pm.** [Mob: 98452-44756]
- **JSS Mahavidyapeetha - Sri Shivarathreeshwara Religious Endowment, Mysuru:** Jnana Vaaridhi-3 - Digital Weekly Lecture Series, talk on 'Speciality of Indian Music' by Vidu. Vrinda Acharya, **6 pm.** [YouTube: *http://Youtube.com/c/JSSMahavidyapeethaonline;* Facebook: *https://www.facebook.com/JSSMVP or http://jssonline.org]*

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Nanonthara (K)	(S-2)	1.50 pm
Tenet (E)	(S-2)	4.15 pm
	(S-3)	1.30 pm
	(S-4)	6.55 pm, 9.55 pm
Tanikhe (K)	(S-2)	7.20 pm
RH 100 (K)	(S-2)	9.55 pm
Act-1978 (K)	(S-3)	11.00 am, 4.30 pm
		7.15 pm, 9.55 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Indoo Ki Jawani (H)	(S-1)	3.45 pm, 9.30 pm
Tenet (E)	(S-2)	11.30 am, 3.00 pm
		6.30 pm, 9.55 pm
	(S-3)	9.10 pm
Act-1978 (K)	(S-3)	12.15 pm
Nanonthara (K)	(S-1)	6.45 pm
RH 100 (K)	(S-3)	3.20 pm
Kiladigalu (K)	(S-1)	12.45 pm
Tanikhe (K)	(S-3)	6.10 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here. **The other multiplexes and single screen theatres are yet to open.**

Hero Indian Super League 2020-21

Chennaiyin FC secures hard-fought 2-1 victory over Goa

Margao, Dec. 20- Chennaiyin FC secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over FC Goa in Hero ISL 2020-21 at Fatorda Stadium here yesterday. Early goals in either half set up the victory for the Marina Machans as the Gaurs were unable to make their chances pay and succumbed to a second consecutive loss.

In what was a riveting start to the game, Chennaiyin came close to opening the scoring first. Anirudh Thapa controlled the ball on his chest in the opponents' box and played it to Jakub Sylvestr but the shot was blocked by Gaurs goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz.

A piece of magic from Crivellaro in the fifth minute opened the scoring for the Marina Machans. After an initial effort in the fourth minute went out for a corner, the Brazilian floated in the ball from the right flank which was turned behind by Nawaz for another set-piece. The retaken corner was delivered to the far post, beating all the Goa players and going straight into the net, with Crivellaro scoring only the third direct goal from a corner in ISL history.

The lead did not last for long though, with FC Goa levelling four minutes later. Spaniard Jorge Ortiz Mendoza collected the ball in the middle of the park and played it to Alexander Jesuraj. The 24-year-old Indian winger's pass into Goa's attacking third was met again by Mendoza, and he smashed it into top corner of the Marina Machans goal without any delay.

The Chennai-based club kept creating the chances as they looked for their second goal of the game. In the 12th minute, Thapa volleyed the ball from a corner which was stopped by Nawaz. His second attempt from the rebound went wide of the post. A few minutes later, Jakub Sylvestr met a low ball from the right from Lallianzuala Chhangte but the attempt was off target.

Igor Angulo with a header for Goa FC.

Chhangte was close to scoring his first goal of the season in the 26th minute but the winger skied a glorious chance. The Indian international had another chance to score towards the end of the first half. Jerry Lalrinzuala's blocked shot fell to the winger who blasted the ball over the crossbar. Chennaiyin missed a number of chances as the scoreboard read 1-1 at the break.

Crivellaro missed an opportunity to add to his tally early in the second half but made amends five minutes later in the 53rd minute, assisting Rahim Ali for his first-ever ISL goal and registered second win of the season.

Hero of the Match: Rafael Crivellaro; **DHL Winning Pass of the Match:** Rafael Crivellaro.

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Today's Matches (Dec. 20)

HYDERABAD
Vs
MUMBAI CITY
Tilak Maidan Stadium
Vasco da Gama, Goa, **5.00 pm**

KERALA BLASTERS
Vs
EAST BENGAL
GMC Stadium,
Bambolim, Goa, **7.30 pm**

Tomorrow's Match (Dec. 21)

ATK MOHUN BAGAN
Vs
BENGALURU FC
Fatorda Stadium
Margao, Goa, **7.30 pm**

Yesterday's Result

GOA - 1
Lose to
CHENNAIYIN FC - 2

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Medal-winning karatekas

The karatekas, who are trained at Department of Physical Education (DPE), University of Mysore (UoM), who won medals in the State-level Open E-Katha Tournament (2020-21) organised under the aegis of Shobukai Shito-Ryu Karate Federation (India) - V.N. Yoda Martial Arts Academy in November last *— (standing from left)* ***S. Nataraj (Gold), D.S. Tejas (Gold) and M. Darshan (Silver) — are seen with kick-boxing trainer S. Jaswanth, Department of Physical Education (University of Mysore) Director P. Krishnaiah, former Mysore University Syndicate Member MSS Kumar and Karate coach Deepak Kumar.***

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